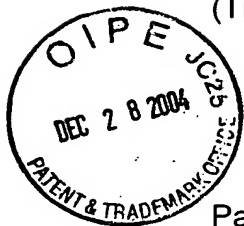


(Translation)

Mailed: November 16, 2004



NOTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No: Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-385349

Examiner's Notice Date: November 11, 2004

Examiner: Tsutomu IWAMOTO 9355 2M00

Attorney for Patent Applicant: Takehiko SUZUYE (other 6 attorneys)

Applied Sections: Section 29 (1), Section 29 (2), and Section 37

This application is rejected on the grounds stated below. Any opinion about the rejection must be filed within 60 DAYS of the mailing date hereof.

REASONS

1. The inventions in the claims mentioned below of the subject application should not be granted a patent under Section 29 (1) (iii) of the Patent Law, as being described in the following publication distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to the filing of the subject application or the inventions made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines in Japan or a foreign country prior to the filing of the subject application.

2. The inventions in the claims mentioned below of the subject application should not be granted a patent under Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law, as being such that the inventions could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the inventions pertain, on the basis of the inventions described in the following publications distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application or the inventions made available to the public through electric telecommunication lines in Japan or a foreign country prior to the filing of the subject application.

REMARKS (refer to references cited)

- Claims 1 and 16
- Reasons 1 and 2
- References 1 and 2
- Remark:

Since "a sheet member" in a post-bake unit described in FIG. 4 in

Reference 1 forms spaces at an upper section and a lower section thereof, respectively, and has transparent holes, "the sheet member" is equivalent to "the partition member" in claim 1. In addition, "an exhaust cover" in Reference 1 exhausts air from a first area and a second area surrounding the first area by being connected to "an exhaust device". Therefore, "the exhaust cover" and "the exhaust device" in Reference 1 are equivalent to "the gaseous flow forming mechanism" in claim 1.

Since "a bake cover" in a thermal treatment device described in FIG. 1 in Reference 2 forms spaces at an upper section and a lower section thereof, respectively, and has a lot of discharge holes, "the bake cover" is equivalent to "the partition member" in claim 1. In addition, "an exhaust chamber" in Reference 2 introduces ambient air from an upper section and exhausts the air from an exhaust opening. Therefore, "the ambient air introducing opening" and "the exhaust opening" in Reference 2 are equivalent to "the gaseous flow forming mechanism" in claim 1.

- Claims 2 to 5
- Reason 2
- References 1 and 2
- Remark

The material of the partition member, the size of the hole, and the like can be appropriately set by a person skilled in the art, and it is deemed that the material has no specific effect.

- Claims 6 and 17

- Reasons 1 and 2
- Reference 3
- Remark

In a bake device described in Reference 3, since a dummy wafer absorbs a sublimed subject generated from a wafer to be treated, the dummy wafer is equivalent to "the absorption plate" in claim 6.

- Claim 7
- Reason 2
- Reference 3
- Remark:

The material of the absorption plate can be appropriately selected by the person skilled in the art.

- Claims 25 to 30
- Reason 1 and 2
- References 1 to 3
- Remark

The inventions in claims 25 to 30 are self-apparent or merely a design change matter.

Cited References:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-146444 – (filed)
2. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 10-335238
3. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-173883

3. This application fails to satisfy the requirements under the Section 37 of the Patent Law in the following respect.

REMARKS

- Claims 15 and 31 to 71

The problem to be solved by the inventions described in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 is to prevent re-adhesion of transpiration substances transpired from a substrate to be treated during a heating treatment, and thus, the above inventions are definitely different from the inventions described in claims 15 and 31 to 71 in the problem to be solved. Therefore, the inventions described in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 and the inventions described in claims 15 and 31 to 71 are not identical in the problem to be solved, and thus, do not have relations under Section 37 (i) of the Patent Law.

Since the main portions of the inventions described in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 are means for preventing the re-adhesion of the transpiration substances transpired from the substrate to be treated during the heating treatment, they are definitely different from inventions described in claims 15 and 31 to 71 in the main portions of the inventions. Consequently, the inventions described in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 and the inventions described in claims 15 and 31 to 71 are not deemed to have the relations under Section 37 (ii) of the Patent Law one another, because of differences in each main portion between the inventions described in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 and the inventions described in claims 15 and 31 to 71.

Moreover, each invention fails to satisfy any of relations under Sections 37 (iii), 37 (iv) and 37 (v) of the Patent Law.

Since this application infringes the provision of Section 37 of the Patent

Law, the requirements for the novelty, inventive step etc. regarding the inventions in claims other than claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30 are not examined.

With regard to the inventions in claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30, the claim not mentioned in this Official Action is not rejected. If a new reason for rejection is noticed, a further Official Action will be issued.

Prior Art Search Report

Searched Field: IPC 7th ed. H01L21/027

Prior-Art Documents

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No.8-222618

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No.6-275512

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No.2000-294476

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No.2002-8967

The result of this prior art search does not constitute the reasons for rejection.

< Others >

The invention in claim 15 is not deemed to have novelty and inventive step with reference to the above reference 1 found in an examination process for claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 30. Because "the alignment unit (ALIM)" described in FIG. 3 in Reference 3 performs not only centering for the substrate but also aligning for notch and orientation flat, the alignment unit is equivalent to "the rotation correction means" in claim 15.